

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	CS/2/14

## POPULATION CHANGE IN CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND 2001 TO 2011

Report by Director of Planning and Development

### Summary

This report looks at the early results from the 2011 Census, giving local information on the number and ages of people living within Highland. It compares these figures with those from 2001 to show that the Highland population has “aged”, and that a large number of people are close to retirement age. The population of Caithness and Sutherland has grown by 3.3% (compared to the Highland average of 11.1%) with an increase in four out of six Wards, and at a local level in 34 out of 58 data zones. Local population growth is strongly linked to the building of new homes.

### 1. Background

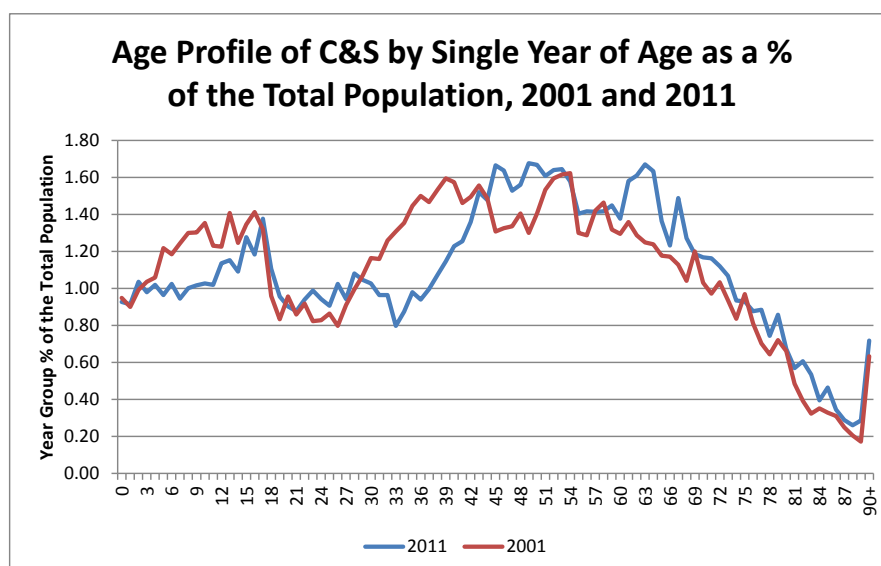
1.1. Publication of the results from the 2011 Census began in December 2012, and the most recent published in November and December 2013 gave the first detailed results for “census output areas”, the smallest areas for which results are published. These detailed results have enabled us to prepare the first 2011 Census profiles and these are available for Wards, Associated School Groups, Community Councils and Settlement Zones on our website at:

[link to census profiles](#)

1.2. This report returns to some earlier results and looks at how the age profile of the Caithness and Sutherland population and the total numbers have changed at a local level (datazones). These changes are summarised in Briefing Note 57 which is attached at **Appendix 1**.

### 2. The Changing Age Structure of the Population

2.1 The age profile of Caithness & Sutherland area in both 2001 and 2011 is similar to the Highland profile given in first chart in Appendix 1, which shows that the shape of the age profile is unchanged over the last decade and it has “moved” ten years to the right. Despite the increase in the birth rate since 2002 there are fewer children aged 15 and under, but perhaps the most striking feature is the peak in the 56 to 68 age group. This group will move into retirement during the next decade and eventually result in an increase in elderly care needs. Many community activists and voluntary workers are retired people and this age group also provides society with a valuable resource.



2.2 The equivalent dip in the profile in the 30 to 41 age group shows how the working age population is now biased towards the older age groups, although the percentage of young people aged 18 to 29 is slightly higher than in 2001.

2.3 The age profile of the population is highly variable at a local level with 40% of people of retirement age in part of Dornoch and around 10% in parts of Caithness. More detail is given in the map in Appendix 2.

### 3 Population Change by Ward

3.1 The table below shows the change in the total population in each Ward between 2001 and 2011 together with the number of new homes built during the decade. Growth in Landward Caithness was above the Highland average at 11.8% but growth elsewhere was low with falls in Thurso and Wick of 4% and 1% respectively.

Ward Name	2001 Census Total Population	2011 Census Total Population	Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Change 2001 to 2011 Percent	Number of New Homes Built
Wick	7,232	6,954	-278	-3.8	160
Thurso	7,830	7,762	-68	-0.9	203
North, West and Central Sutherland	5,827	5,928	101	1.7	265
East Sutherland and Edderton	7,642	7,916	274	3.6	322
Landward Caithness	10,525	11,770	1,245	11.8	752
Caithness & Sutherland	39,056	40,330	1,274	3.3	1,702
Highland	208,914	232,132	23,218	11.1	13,648

### 4 Population Change in Main Settlements

4.1 The table below shows how the total population in each of the main settlements changed during the decade. The greatest increases were in Halkirk (16%), Watten (15%), Bettyhill / Farr (12%) and Lybster (11%), with significant falls in Kinlochbervie (-15%), Castletown (-4%) and Wick (-2%).

Settlement Zone	2001	2011	change	% change
Thurso	8,635	8,992	357	4.1
Wick	8,383	8,206	-177	-2.1
Dornoch	2,397	2,570	173	7.2
Brora	1,772	1,870	97	5.5
Golspie	1,652	1,661	9	0.5
Halkirk	1,568	1,811	243	15.5
Castletown	1,259	1,207	-52	-4.1
Lybster	1,207	1,341	134	11.1
Lairg	879	967	88	10.0
Dunnet	826	898	72	8.8
Helmsdale	771	764	-7	-0.9
Bonar Bridge	724	724	0	0.1
Bettyhill/Farr	516	576	60	11.6
Kinlochbervie	480	410	-70	-14.7
Lochinver	650	651	1	0.1
Watten	620	714	94	15.1
Keiss	607	653	46	7.6

## 5 Local Population Change by Data Zone

- 5.1 The Appendix shows that that high levels of population growth have occurred in areas where there has been significant house building, although the growth around Embo suggests a change in the types and sizes of families living in the area, or perhaps reduced holiday & second home use. Zones with the most significant decline tend to be in areas that have seen little economic growth and / or are fully developed urban areas with little new housing, where a generally stable population base has aged and household sizes fallen.
- 5.2 **Thurso.** The overall population fell by 1% with an increase in 4 out of 11 data zones. The strongest growth has been in Scrabster (19%) with small increases in Thurso North West, Pennyland Central and Central (5%, 4% and 2% respectively). The greatest fall was in Springpark (-8%).
- 5.3 **Wick.** The overall fall of 4% was the greatest fall of all Highland Wards, with an increase in 3 out of 11 data zones. The highest growth of 26% was in Wick Broadhaven where there was significant new house building, with increases of 9% in Wick South and 7% in Central South. The greatest falls were in Pulteneytown South (-18%), South Head (-16%), Hillhead North (-14%) and South West (-12%).
- 5.4 **Landward Caithness.** Overall growth was above the Highland average at 12% with an increase in 13 out of 15 data zones. The highest growth was in Thurso Rural (50%), Castletown Rural (27%), Westerdale (27%) and Thrumster & Clyth (24%). The single datazone making up the traditional village centre of Castletown fell by 22% as the village grew by expanding outwards rather than by consolidation.
- 5.5 **East Sutherland & Edderton.** Overall growth was modest at 4% with an increase in 8 out of 12 data zones. The highest growth was in Embo (29%, more than might be expected given the number of new homes built), Brora

North (23%) and Dornoch West (12%). The population fell in Brora Rural (-10%), Dornoch East (-9%), and Helmsdale & Kinbrace (-4%).

**5.6 North West & Central Sutherland.** Overall growth was marginal at 2%, with an increase in 6 out of 9 data zones. The highest growth was in Lairg (10%) and the greatest fall in Kinlochbervie & Achfary (-17%).

## **6 Resource Implications**

6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report, but the imminent rise in the number of retired people reinforces the anticipated need for increased expenditure on care of the elderly in the future.

## **7 Equalities, Legal, Risk and Climate Change Implications**

7.1 There are no equalities, legal, risk or climate change implications for The Highland Council arising from this factual report.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note that the last decade has seen population growth of 3%, lower than the Highland average, and also that:

- i. there has been significant population drift from the towns of Thurso and Wick into rural Caithness;
- ii. the Census results confirm that the population is ageing and that there is about to be a significant increase in the number of retired people; and
- iii. the strong links between economic growth, new house building and population growth.

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 16 January 2014

Author: Cameron Thomas

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Briefing Note 57: 2011 Census – Population Change in Highland 2001 to 2011

Appendix 2: Percentage of People Aged Over 65, by data Zone 2011 Census

# 2011 CENSUS – POPULATION CHANGE IN HIGHLAND 2001 TO 2011

September 2013

## SUMMARY

According to figures from National Records of Scotland:

- The population of Highland has “aged” much as expected since 2001.
- We have a large number of people in the 55 to 65 age group and should see a steady increase in the number of retired people.
- The strongest population growth has been in Inverness South and Aird & Loch Ness Wards.
- The population of Wick, Inverness Millburn, Thurso and Culloden & Ardersier Wards have declined.
- At a local level population growth has resulted mainly from the building of new homes.
- Despite strong growth overall the population of 96 out of 292 data zones has fallen.
- The future publication of results starting on 26<sup>th</sup> September will give detailed information at a local level.

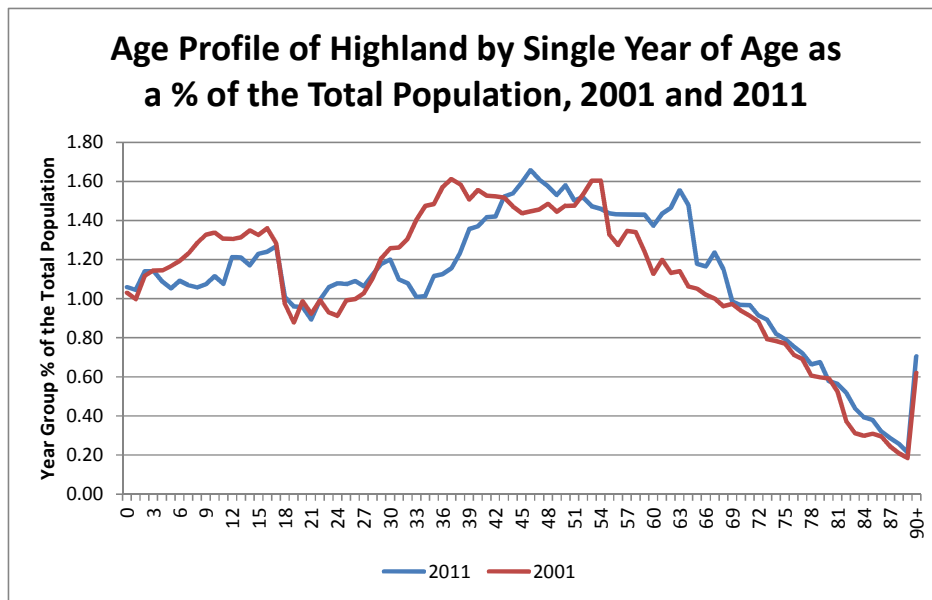
## Introduction

National records of Scotland (NRS) began to publish results from the 2011 Census in December 2012 and the first two releases showed that the population of Highland had grown from 208,914 in 2001 to 232,132 in 2011. The most recent releases “1C” on 23rd July and “1C part 2” on 15th August give the population of Highland by single year of age and gender, and estimates of the 2011 total population and number of households for datazones and census output areas. More detailed results will be available in subsequent releases starting in late September but these releases allow us to see how our population has aged, and the distribution of growth across Highland. This Briefing Note looks at our changing age profile, population change in Wards and datazones, and identifies those Wards where the change was greater than expected from population estimates “rolled forward” from the 2001 Census. Two maps showing the distribution of change are given at the end of this note.

## Our Ageing Population

The chart below shows that for the most part the age profile has moved by 10 years to the right which is what we might expect. Two particular areas of interest are:

- The percentage of children aged 16 had fallen in 2011 reflecting generally lower birth rates, except that ages three and under are similar to 2001 as a result of the increase in birth rates that started in the middle of the decade.
- The percentage of over 60s is slightly higher in 2011 but we have a “peak” of people aged between 55 and 65 who are about to move into retirement with the result that we should expect to see a steady rise in the number of people of retirement age in Highland.



### Population Change by Ward

The table below shows the change in the total population in each Ward between 2001 and 2011 together with the number of new homes built during the decade. As might be expected the largest growth has been in the expansion areas of Inverness with an increase of 8,136 in Inverness South (115%) and 1,958 in Aird and Loch Ness (22%). Badenoch & Strathspey, Nairn, Landward Caithness, Black Isle, Dingwall & Seaforth and Inverness Central have all seen strong growth around or above the Highland average while growth in Tain & Easter Ross, Cromarty Firth and the rural west has been more modest. Growth in Sutherland has been marginal, and four Wards – Wick, Inverness Millburn, Thurso and Culloden & Ardersier – have all experienced population decline. Within Caithness we have seen a general trend of population drift from the urban areas of Thurso and Wick into Rural Caithness and this, in combination with low economic growth, accounts for the decline in the two towns. Inverness Millburn is fully developed with little land for new housing while in Culloden & Ardersier the relatively modest volume of new housing has not kept pace with the ageing and declining population in the growth areas of the 1980s and 90s.

Ward	Ward Name	2001 Census Total Population	2011 Census Total Population	Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Change 2001 to 2011 Percent	Number of New Homes Built
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	5,827	5,928	101	1.7	265
2	Thurso	7,830	7,762	-68	-0.9	203
3	Wick	7,232	6,954	-278	-3.8	160
4	Landward Caithness	10,525	11,770	1,245	11.8	752
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	7,642	7,916	274	3.6	322
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh	11,220	11,865	645	5.7	635
7	Cromarty Firth	11,506	12,545	1,039	9.0	563
8	Tain and Easter Ross	8,646	9,265	619	7.2	371
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	11,742	12,985	1,243	10.6	707
10	Black Isle	8,928	9,954	1,026	11.5	466
11	Eilean a' Cheò	9,445	10,177	732	7.8	883
12	Caol and Mallaig	7,688	8,213	525	6.8	400
13	Aird and Loch Ness	8,873	10,831	1,958	22.1	911
14	Inverness West	8,419	8,558	139	1.7	359
15	Inverness Central	13,378	14,767	1,389	10.4	603
16	Inverness Ness-Side	10,013	10,508	495	4.9	300
17	Inverness Millburn	8,272	8,185	-87	-1.1	40
18	Culloden and Ardersier	11,175	11,139	-36	-0.3	292
19	Nairn	10,660	12,234	1,574	14.8	799
20	Inverness South	7,078	15,214	8,136	114.9	3,128
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	11,672	13,588	1,916	16.4	1,042
22	Ft William and Ardnamurchan	11,143	11,774	631	5.7	447
	<b>Highland</b>	<b>208,914</b>	<b>232,132</b>	<b>23,218</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13,648</b>

## Population Change by Data Zone

The table below gives a more detailed breakdown of change by datazone# for the top twenty “winners and losers” in Highland. With an average growth across Highland of 11% we might expect to see an increase in most areas, but in fact 96 out of 292 data zones have experienced decline. In general it confirms that high levels of population growth have occurred in areas where there has been significant house building, although the growth in rural areas such as Beaully Rural, Killen & Raddery and Spean Bridge suggests a change in the types and sizes of families living in the area. Zones with the most significant decline tend to be in areas that have seen little economic growth and / or are fully developed urban areas with little new housing, where a generally stable population base has aged and household sizes fallen.

Information for [all data zones in Highland](#) is available on our web site.

Zone	Data Zone Name	2001 Census Total Population	2011 Census Total Population	Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Change 2001 to 2011 Percent	Numer of New Homes Built
S01003778	Inverness South	512	3,225	2,713	529.9	1,083
S01003819	Westhill East	613	2,446	1,833	299.0	670
S01003792	Inverness Inshes	680	2,286	1,606	236.2	593
S01003784	Inverness Castle Heather South	580	1,655	1,075	185.3	350
S01003888	Nairn East Rural	633	1,633	1,000	158.0	410
S01003755	Aviemore West	724	1,626	902	124.6	419
S01003781	Inverness Ness Castle	648	1,129	481	74.2	266
S01003828	Inverness East	696	1,145	449	64.5	218
S01003853	Inverness Central & Longman	763	1,253	490	64.2	247
S01003995	Thurso Rural	876	1,312	436	49.8	186
S01003843	Beaully Rural	651	953	302	46.4	78
S01003769	Drumnadrochit	671	946	275	41.0	122
S01003808	Portree North	666	936	270	40.5	99
S01003912	Dingwall Tulloch	685	945	260	38.0	68
S01003903	Killen & Raddery	664	901	237	35.7	74
S01003905	Culbokie	864	1,166	302	35.0	109
S01003742	Spean Bridge	527	711	184	34.9	76
S01003867	Muir of Ord South East	1,009	1,357	348	34.5	160
S01003849	Inverness Merkinch East	756	1,015	259	34.3	128
S01003921	Alness Dalmore	775	1,038	263	33.9	109
	<b>Highland</b>	<b>208,914</b>	<b>232,132</b>	<b>23,218</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13,648</b>
S01003831	Inverness Scorguie South	641	584	-57	-8.9	0
S01003800	Portree West	697	633	-64	-9.2	42
S01003833	Inverness Central North West	593	537	-56	-9.4	23
S01003813	Inverness Drakies North	946	856	-90	-9.5	0
S01003964	Brora Rural	535	483	-52	-9.7	22
S01003822	Inverness Raigmore South	739	666	-73	-9.9	4
S01003799	Inverness Drakies South	841	756	-85	-10.1	1
S01003886	Nairn Academy	580	519	-61	-10.5	0
S01003779	Skye East & Raasay	560	501	-59	-10.5	21
S01003963	Achiltibuie	535	474	-61	-11.4	27
S01003979	Wick South West	645	569	-76	-11.8	1
S01003765	Kyle of Lochalsh	739	649	-90	-12.2	9
S01003809	Inverness Kinmylies South	768	674	-94	-12.2	0
S01003836	Smithton North East	589	513	-76	-12.9	14
S01003985	Wick Hillhead North	862	743	-119	-13.8	4
S01003858	Culloden Walker Crescent	621	534	-87	-14.0	0
S01003978	Wick South Head	610	512	-98	-16.1	2
S01003973	Kinlochbervie & Achfary	544	450	-94	-17.3	8
S01003977	Wick Pultneytown South	595	491	-104	-17.5	1
S01004001	Castletown	798	620	-178	-22.3	5

# NRS build up datazones from postcode areas, and the boundaries of these postcodes can change through time with the result that there can be inconsistencies between the 2001 and 2011 population base. Postcode changes are most significant in high growth areas such as Inverness where the scale of the overall population increase is much greater than the relatively subtle changes resulting from postcode boundary changes. Elsewhere, postcodes have been relatively stable.

Changes in communal establishments – such as the opening and closing of care homes or student accommodation – can play a big part in population change at a local level but are not thought to be significant in the top twenty figures given in this Note. More information will be available in later releases of Census results.

## Comparison with “Rolled Forward” Population Estimates

Mid Year Estimates produced by NRS together with the more detailed Small Area Population Estimates provide a basis for service planning and performance monitoring. As Highland has the most significant variance between the 2001 based rolled forward mid year estimates and 2011 Census population of all Councils in Scotland, the difference may be of more than academic interest. The table below shows the variance for each Ward.

NRS has produced a reconciliation report which is available [here](#). They assign most of the difference for Council areas to problems in estimating migration within the UK from records of registrations with GPs, and international migration from the International Passenger Survey. The 2001 and 2011 Census estimates and records of births and deaths are felt to be generally robust. In Highland Wards, the greatest variance is in:

- Inverness South where the scale of house building and population growth has lead to a large number of GP registrations with inevitable scope for error; and
- Inverness Central where the 630 new homes that have been built were almost all flats, and this together with the City Centre location plus deprived areas in Merkinch has probably resulted in a mobile population with a high proportion of young people who often do not register with GPs (particularly young males).

Ward Name	Mid Year Estimates - Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Census - Change 2001 to 2011 Number	Variance - Census Change - Mid Year Estimate Change
Aird and Loch Ness	1,778	1,958	180
Badenoch and Strathspey	1,334	1,916	582
Black Isle	726	1,026	300
Caol and Mallaig	204	525	321
Cromarty Firth	231	1,039	808
Culloden and Ardersier	-177	-36	141
Dingwall and Seaforth	679	1,243	564
East Sutherland and Edderton	323	274	-49
Eilean a' Cheò	656	732	76
Ft William and Ardnamurchan	291	631	340
Inverness Central	273	1,389	1,116
Inverness Millburn	-225	-87	138
Inverness Ness-Side	-32	495	527
Inverness South	6,991	8,136	1,145
Inverness West	-211	139	350
Landward Caithness	838	1,245	407
Nairn	944	1,574	630
North, West and Central Sutherland	-269	101	370
Tain and Easter Ross	177	619	442
Thurso	-614	-68	546
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh	149	645	496
Wick	-616	-278	338
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,450</b>	<b>23,218</b>	<b>9,768</b>

## Future Plans

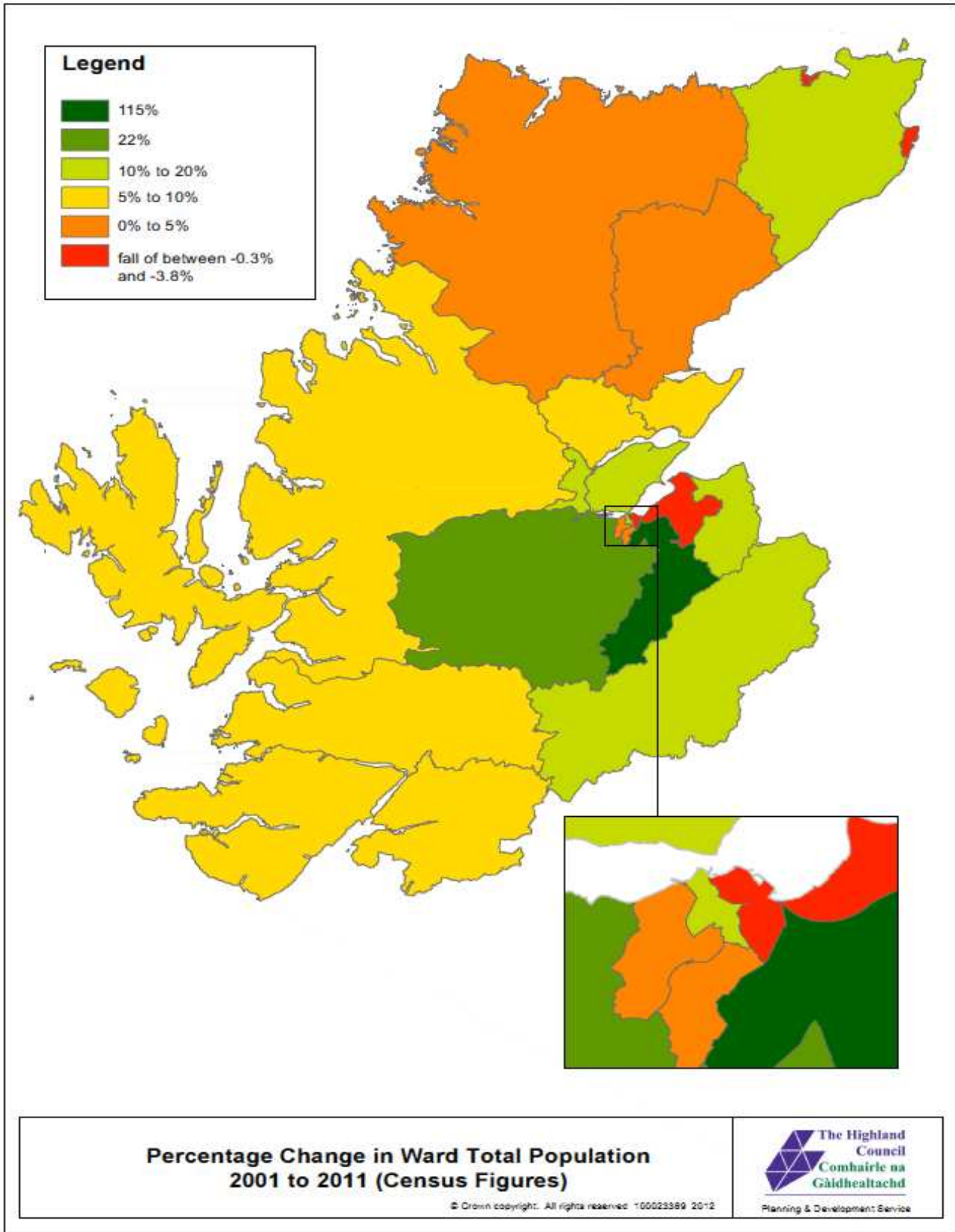
The NRS plans for publication of further results are fluid to an extent because some outputs are derived from previous results, and disclosure control issues often become apparent only at a late stage. Their current plans are:

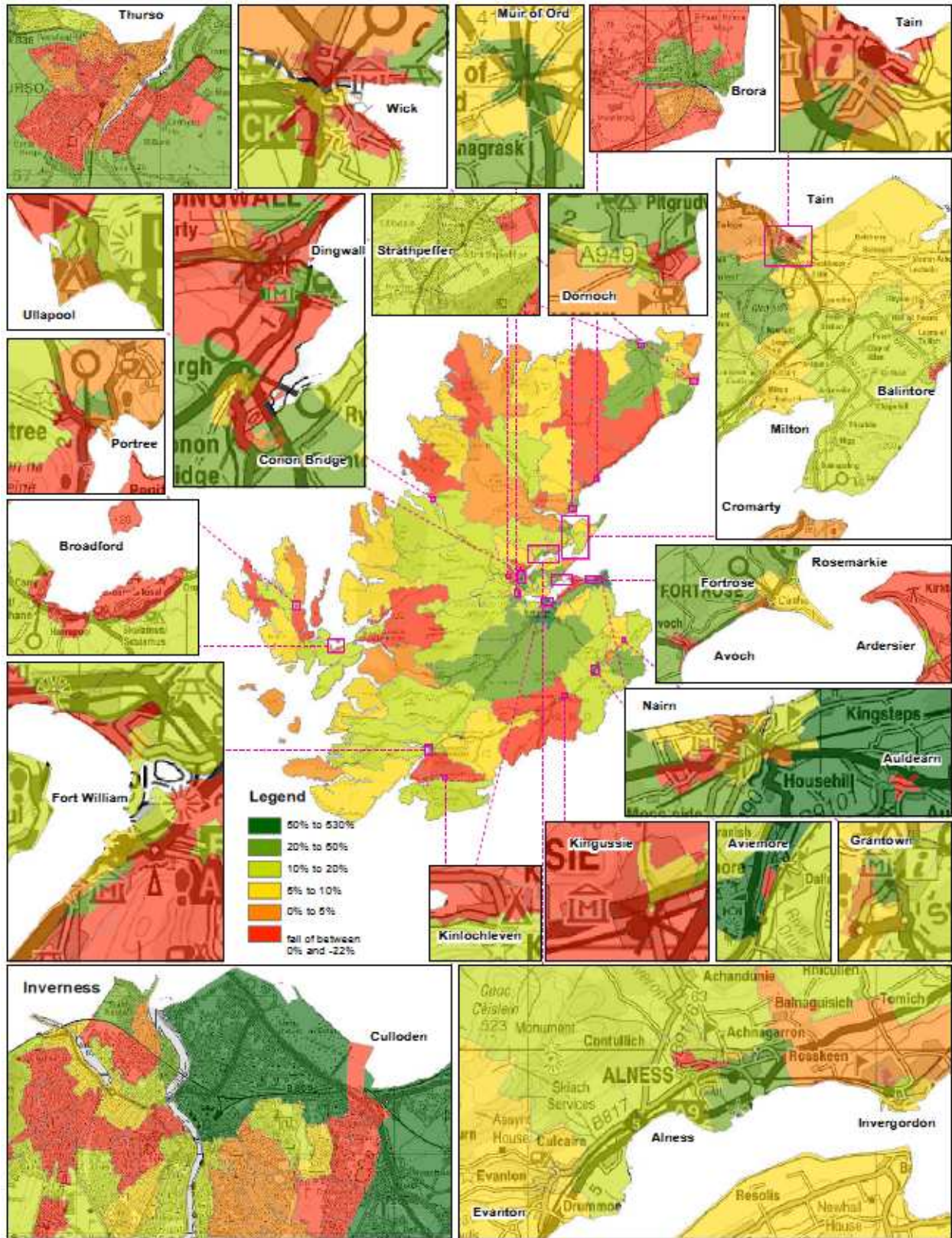
- On 26th September release 2A giving key and quick statistics (“univariate” tables) for Scotland, Councils and Health Boards on population & households, ethnicity, religion, language & identity, health, and housing & accommodation;
- Starting early November release 2B giving more key and quick statistics for education and the labour market, for the three higher geographies of release 2B plus also smaller areas such as data zones and output areas.
- Four themed profiles will be available as part of 2A and two with release 2B.
- Release 2B should be accompanied by an interactive website for results together with a bulk data download tool.



- Release 2C in mid December will give key and quick statistics for living arrangements.
- Publication of more detailed local characteristics and themes (“cross-cutting” tables) will begin in December followed by release 4 giving detailed characteristics and themes.

Within Highland we will begin to prepare results for publication on the Council's website as soon as a reasonable number of the release 2B tables are available. We expect to publish profiles for Wards, Community Councils, Associated School Groups and settlement zones in early December although the exact timing is dependent on NRS achieving their own timescales.





**Percentage Change in Data Zone  
Total Population 2001 to 2011 (Census figures)**



